

# **Community-Based Job Training Grants**

*Garden City Community College*



**Grantee:** Garden City Community College

**Industry Focus:** Construction and Energy

**Key Partners:** Western Kansas One-Stop Workforce Development Center; Holcomb School District; Garden City School District; Associated General Contractors; Bechtel Power Corporation; Dick Construction; Keller-Leopold Insurance; Keller Plumbing Service, Inc.; Lee Construction; Routon Construction; 3G Electric, Inc.; Kansas Department of Commerce; and Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce

**Grant Amount:** \$1,999,939

**Leveraged Amount:** \$1,850,880

**Location of Grant Activities:** Southwest Kansas

**Challenge:** The need for energy independence has spurred the expansion of electrical generating capacity at the Holcomb generating plant, which currently serves 55 western Kansas counties. Expansion could increase capacity five-fold and serve parts of seven contiguous states, where electricity demand is growing. The expansion has the personnel to begin the project, but needs a nucleus of local construction trades people to complete the project on budget. The Holcomb expansion will provide construction jobs for local workers currently employed in meatpacking plants and earning annual salaries of \$16,000. Construction workers earn higher salaries, which would help combat the region's 25% poverty rate.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The POWER project will train construction workers to complete the Holcomb generating plant expansion. The project will also train the skilled workforce needed to support projected regional development. The project will enroll construction laborers and trades people as apprentices in seven craft training programs.. It will also create a Construction Trades Center of Excellence, a Construction Trades Advising Model, and a Registered Apprenticeship Program.

**Projected Outcomes:**

- Enroll 300 additional students over three years in eight occupational programs: laborer, carpenter, electrician, plumber/pipfitter, millwright, boilermaker, structural ironworker and welder
- 270 students will complete training activities
- 201 completers will enter employment and will experience a 90% retention rate
- 45% of those entering jobs will secure promotions or wage gains